DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Saturday, January 3, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	05:55pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:16am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	12°C
Maximum	25°C
Humidity	53%
Outlook	Sunny

England fight for scraps in final Ashes clash

Pg.18 SPORT

Salman Raja in city to finalise CM Afridi's Sindh visit

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) secretary general Barrister Salman Akram Raja arrived in Karachi on Friday to finalise arrangements for the upcoming visit of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Sohail Afridi to Sindh to mobilise masses.

According to a press release, after arriving the PTI secretary general held a detailed meeting with the party's Sindh president Haleem Adil Sheikh along with other provincial and Karachi division leaders.

The meeting participants discussed the country's overall political situation, the ongoing constitutional crisis, rising inflation, public issues, and PTI's continuing political struggle, the press release stated.

During the meeting, the three-day Sindh visit of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister, from January 9 to 11, was finalised.

It was agreed that the chief minister would visit Karachi, Hyderabad and other cities, where he would meet the public directly and convey PTI founder Imran Khan's message in connection with the ongoing street movement.

The meeting participants also agreed to further organise, coordinate and strengthen the street movement currently underway across Sindh.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sheikh said that the street movement across Sindh was underway with full force for the release of Imran Khan, the supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law, and an end to rising inflation.

He said the movement had become a symbol of the struggle to protect the basic rights of the people and was witnessing growing public participation with each passing day.

He expressed confidence that Afridi's three-day visit to Sindh would prove historic, giving new momentum to the street movement.

He said the visit would include direct public interaction as well as meetings with intellectuals, lawyers and media representatives, adding that paying respects at the mausoleum of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah would be part of the schedule.

He further said that all preparations for the visit had been completed and Sindh would extend a grand and historic welcome to the KP chief minister on January 9.

A LARGE number of workers stage a protest outside the Karachi Press Club against the government decision to privatise the Pakistan International Airlines and other state-owned enterprises.—Online

Mayor okays Rs4.2bn plan to revamp four major road corridors

- KMC to spend Rs1.9bn on Pehalwan Goth Road, Rs1.12bn on Rashid Minhas Road, Rs574m on Sir Shah Suleman Road and Rs429m on S.M. Taufiq Road
- Official says initiative focuses on sustainable infrastructure, improved traffic management and greener urban environment
- Wahab claims Karimabad Underpass to open for traffic in first week of February

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: In a bid to revive city infrastructure with a modern, aesthetic and international outlook, the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has approved a comprehensive Rs4.2 billion uplift and beautification plan for the rehabilitation of four major traffic corridors in the metropolis.

Chairing a meeting at the KMC head office, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab finalised the plan under which four major corridors — Rashid Minhas Road (from Sharea Faisal to Shahrah-i-Usman via 4-K Chowrangi and Nagan Chowrangi); S.M. Taufique Road (from Liaquatabad flyover to Teen Hatti Bridge); Sir Shah Suleman Road (from Karsaz to Nazimabad Habib Bank Chowrangi); and Pehalwan Goth Road (from Habib University in Gulistan-i-Jauhar to Race Course) in Safoora — would be rehabilitated.

According to officials, the KMC has allocated Rs1.12 billion for rehabilitation of Rashid Minhas Road; Rs429 million for S.M. Taufiq Road; Rs574m for Sir Shah Muhammad Suleman Road and Rs1.9bn for Pehalwan Goth Road

A KMC spokesperson said the initiative focuses on sustainable infrastructure, improved traffic management and a greener urban environment to give Karachi a truly modern and international vibe.

He said all identified routes will undergo complete upgrading and rehabilitation, including the resolution of longstanding sewerage issues, development of lush green belts, improved lane markings and traffic-friendly designs to ensure smoother connectivity to the city's inner arteries.

The mayor, he said, also issued directives to float tenders without any further delay to ensure swift execution.

Briefing the meeting, KMC Financial Adviser Gulzar Abro outlined the allocation of funds and confirmed the finalisation of development schemes aimed at restoring Karachi's key arteries and enhancing their visual and functional appeal.

Addressing the meeting, the mayor emphasised the urgency of rapid transformation, saying: "Karachi deserves better. I want fast-track and emergency-level execution of these projects."

He said that the leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party and the provincial government are fully "committed to supporting KMC by bringing all relevant departments together for Karachi's revival".

He expressed confidence that with the continued support of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah,

Continued on Page 14

Court dismisses plea for FIR against director, cast of *Dhurandhar*

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A sessions court dismissed on Friday an application seeking registration of a criminal case against the director, producer and actors of the Bollywood film *Dhurandhar* for allegedly defaming the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party.

The court observed that the application, filed by PPP sympathiser Muhammad Amir, had been filed only to grab "media attention".

The judge observed that the film was not produced or released within the jurisdiction of Pakistan. "Such affairs pertain to state level and required to be dealt by Foreign Office at official level. So filing this petition is nothing except to grabbing the media attention," the court order said.

The court ruled that no direction could be issued for the registration of an FIR as all the proposed accused persons were Indian nationals and no cognisable offence had occurred within the country's jurisdiction.

However, the judge suggested that the applicant could approach the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) or the federal government for redressal of his grievances.

The applicant moved the court after the police refused to register an FIR. He had submitted that the PPP was portrayed as sympathetic to terrorists in the movie, and Lyari was labelled as a "terrorist war zone", which was provocative, misleading and harmful misrepresentation, damaging the reputation of the country and its people.

He stated that he viewed the official trailer and promotional material of the film on social media platforms. He said that the images of Ms Bhutto, along with PPP's flag and rally visuals, were used in the movie without any legal permission.

Trailer runs over, kills female biker in Landhi

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Heavy vehicles' reign of terror continued in the metropolis on Thursday as a female motorcyclist was killed after being hit by a trailer.

Police said that the driver of a 10-wheeler hit Bushra, 26, when she was returning to her home in Labour Square on a motorbike on the main road near MN Textile in Landhi at around 7:15am.

"She suffered critical injuries and died on the spot," Quaidabad SHO Mohammad Ali Shah said, adding that that the driver managed to escape from the spot, leaving behind the heavy vehicle that was impounded by the police.

The body was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medico-legal formalities.

Her relatives told the media at JPMC that Bushra worked at a factory dealing with old clothes in the Landhi Export Processing Zone. She originally hailed from Okara and her relatives said she will be laid to rest in her native town.

Later, the police registered a case against the driver on the complaint of her brother.

'Stray bullet' kills teenage girl travelling in rickshaw

Inquiry committee formed after family alleges girl caught in crossfire between bandits and police

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A 17-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while travelling in a rickshaw in the Landhi area, with her family saying she was caught in crossfire between police and robbers.

In view of the family's complaint, police have formed a committee to investigate the incident.

Landhi SHO Salahuddin Qazi told *Dawn* that the girl, Komal Laiq, a resident of the Lines Area, had gone to visit her grandmother in Landhi. She was returning home in a rickshaw, when a bullet broke the rickshaw's glass and hit her in the chest.

She was critically wounded and taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where doctors declared her dead.

The victim's uncle, Rehan, told reporters at the hospital that she was shot during an exchange of fire between police and suspects. He gave a written statement that the family did not want legal proceedings.

Police Surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said the girl was brought dead to the hospital. She added that the family did not allow a post-mortem examination and took the body away.

In a statement, the Korangi police said they were chasing suspects who had committed a robbery outside a bank. The suspects fired at the police and during the chase one suspect, Mola Bux, was arrested in a wounded condition while his accomplice escaped. Police said they recovered a pistol and a mobile phone from the arrested man.

The statement also said that later, the police received information that the girl, Komal, had been shot near the same locality in the Landhi area.

Therefore, Korangi SSP Fida Husain Janwari has formed an inquiry committee led by Landhi DSP Faiza Sodhar. The committee has been asked to investigate the case and submit a report immediately, the statement added.

However, Landhi SHO Qazi said initial investigations showed a difference in timing between the two incidents. He said the girl was shot around 11:30am while the police encounter reportedly took place around 1pm.

Role of Rangers in restoring peace to Karachi highlighted

Naqvi pays tribute to martyrs of Sindh Rangers at passing-out ceremony

KARACHI: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said Sindh Rangers have played a decisive role in curbing terrorism, crime and unrest in Karachi.

He said this while speaking at the passing-out parade of Basic Recruit Training Course No. 33 at the Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Training Centre and School on Friday.

Addressing the passing-out contingent, Interior Minister Naqvi said it was a matter of great honour for him to witness the discipline, professional capability, and commitment of the young soldiers who were formally joining one of Pakistan's most respected security forces.

He extended congratulations to the cadets, their families, and their instructors for the successful completion of the training, calling the day an important milestone in the lives of the young graduates.

Mr Naqvi said that the Rangers had earned a distinguished reputation nationwide for its professionalism and exceptional performance.

This force created history by restoring peace to Karachi, he said, recalling that the Rangers played a decisive role in curbing terrorism, crime, and unrest in the metropolis.

The interior minister noted that the Rangers in cooperation with Sindh police were instrumental in eliminating criminal dens in the Katcha (riverine) belt, significantly improving law and order across the province.

It is due to the continuous efforts of the Rangers that today Karachi stands transformed, he said, adding that commercial and industrial activity have revived and the city has once again become an international centre for trade and culture.

Referring to regional security, Mr Naqvi highlighted Rangers' participation in the May 2025 operations against Indian aggression at Bunyan al-Marsous, where the force worked alongside the Pakistan Army and played a highly significant role on international borders.

He said the Rangers closely monitored enemy movements and successfully foiled hostile intentions through vigilance and preparedness.

Paying tribute to the martyrs of the Rangers, Mr Naqvi acknowledged the sacrifices made for the protection of Pakistan's internal and external frontiers.

He informed attendees that Rangers had served far beyond provincial boundaries, having been deployed in Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and Islamabad in the past. Recently, two wings of the force were stationed in the difficult and sensitive areas of Balochistan, where their personnel were performing duties with dedication, discipline, and professional skills.

To the graduating cadets, Mr Naqvi emphasised that the passing-out ceremony was not the end of their journey but the beginning of their responsibilities.

"I am confident that with your spirit, professionalism, courage, and bravery, you will always live up to the trust of the nation," he said.

The interior minister concluded with prayers for the success and safety of the newly inducted soldiers, wishing a secure and promising future for them, their families, and Pakistan. —APP

INTERIOR Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspects the Guard of Honour in a vehicle during the Rangers passing-out parade. —Dawn